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Nana Akufo-Addo

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (/æˈkʊfoʊɪˌɑːˈdoʊ/ [ⓘ] [ⓘ] listen) *a-KUUF-oh ah-DOH*; born **William Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**;^[1] 29 March 1944) is the President of Ghana, in office since January 2017.^[2] He previously served as Attorney General from 2001 to 2003 and as Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2007.^[3]

Akufo-Addo first ran for president in 2008 and again in 2012, both times as the candidate of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), but was defeated on both occasions by NDC candidates: John Atta Mills in 2008 and John Dramani Mahama in 2012.^[4] He was chosen as the NPP's candidate for a third time in the 2016 elections and defeated Mahama in the first round (winning 53.85% of the votes), which marked the first time in a Ghanaian presidential election that an opposition candidate won a majority outright in the first round.^[5]

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Early life and education

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo was born in Accra, Ghana, to a prominent Ghanaian royal and political family as the son of Edward and Adeline Akufo-Addo.^[6] His father Edward Akufo-Addo from Akropong-Akuapem was Ghana's third Chief Justice from 1966 to 1970, Chairman of the 1967–68 Constitutional Commission and the non-executive President of Ghana from 1970 till 1972.^[6] Akufo-Addo's maternal grandfather was Nana Sir Ofori Atta, King of Akyem Abuakwa, who was a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of the Gold Coast before Ghana's independence.^[6] He is a nephew of Kofi Asante Ofori-Atta and William Ofori Atta. His granduncle was J. B. Danquah, another member of The Big Six.^[7]

Nana Akufuo-Addo

President of Ghana
Incumbent
Assumed office
7 January 2017
Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia
Preceded by John Mahama
Minister of Foreign Affairs
In office
1 April 2003 – 1 July 2007
President John Kufuor
Preceded by Hackman Owusu-Agyeman
Succeeded by Akwasi Osei-Adjei
Attorney General of Ghana
In office
7 January 2001 – 1 April 2003
President John Kufuor
Preceded by Obed Asamoah
Succeeded by Papa Owusu-Ankomah
Member of Parliament

He started his primary education at the Government Boys School, [Adabraka](#), and later at the Rowe Road School (now Kinbu), both in Accra Central. He went to England to study for his O-Level and A-Level examinations at [Lancing College](#), [Sussex](#), where he was nicknamed 'Billy'.^[1] He began the [Philosophy](#), [Politics](#) and [Economics](#) course at [New College, Oxford](#) in 1962, but left soon afterwards.^[8] He returned to Ghana in 1962 to teach at the [Accra Academy](#), before going to read Economics at the [University of Ghana](#), [Legon](#), in 1964, earning a BSc(Econ) degree in 1967. He subsequently joined [Inner Temple](#) and trained as a lawyer under the apprenticeship system known as the [Inns of court](#), where no formal law degree was required.^[9] He was called to the English Bar ([Middle Temple](#)) in July 1971. He was called to the Ghanaian bar in July 1975.^[10] Akufo-Addo worked with the Paris office of the U.S. law firm [Coudert Brothers](#). In 1979, he co-founded the law firm Prempeh and Co.

Political life

Akufo-Addo's participation in politics began in the late 1970s when he joined the People's Movement for Freedom and Justice,^[11] an organization formed to oppose the General [Acheampong](#)-led Supreme Military Council's Union Government proposals.^[12] In May 1995, he was among a broad group of elites who formed Alliance for Change, an alliance that organized demonstrations against neo-liberal policies such as the introduction of Value Added Tax and human rights violations of the [Rawlings](#) presidency.^[13] The broad-based opposition alliance later collapsed as the elite leaders jostled for leadership positions.^[10] In the 1990s, he formed a civil rights organization called Ghana's Committee on Human and People's Rights.^[11]

Presidential bids

In October 1998, Akufo-Addo competed for the presidential candidacy of the NPP^[10] and lost to [John Kufuor](#), who subsequently won the December 2000 presidential election and assumed office as President of Ghana in January 2001. Akufo-Addo was the chief campaigner for Kufuor in the 2000 election. He became the first Attorney General and Minister for Justice of the Kufuor era, and later moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and [New Partnership for Africa's Development](#) (NEPAD).^{[14][15]}

In 2007, he was the popular candidate tipped to win [New Patriotic Party's](#) presidential primaries.^[16] In 2008, Akufo-Addo represented NPP in a closely contested election against John Atta Mills of NDC.^[17] In the first round of voting, Akufo-Addo tallied 49.13%, leading Atta Mills with a slim margin that was below the constitutional threshold of 50% to become the outright winner.^[18]

Akufo-Addo ran again as [NPP's presidential candidate](#) in the [2012 national elections](#) against NDC's [John Mahama](#), successor to the late Atta Mills. Mahama was declared the winner of the election, an outcome that was legally challenged by Akufo-Addo. The court case generated considerable controversy, and was finally decided by the Ghana Supreme Court

for Akim Abuakwa South	
<div><div>In office</div><div>2005–2009</div></div>	
<div>Preceded by</div>	Constituency established
<div>Succeeded by</div>	Samuel Atta Akyea
Member of Parliament for Abuakwa	
<div><div>In office</div><div>1997–2004</div></div>	
<div>Preceded by</div>	Constituency established
<div>Succeeded by</div>	Constituency abolished
Personal details	
<div>Born</div>	<div>William Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo</div> <div>29 March 1944</div> <div>Accra, Gold Coast (now Ghana)</div>
<div>Political party</div>	New Patriotic Party
<div>Spouse(s)</div>	Rebecca Griffiths-Randolph
<div>Children</div>	5
<div>Residence</div>	Jubilee House
<div>Education</div>	<div>Lancing College</div> <div>New College, Oxford</div> <div>University of Ghana</div> <div>Inns of Court School of Law</div>
<div>Website</div>	Campaign website (http://nanaakufoaddo.org)

in a narrow 5/4 decision in favour of Mahama. Akufo-Addo accepted the verdict in the interest of economic stability and international goodwill.^[6]

In March 2014, Akufo-Addo announced his decision to seek his party's nomination for the third time ahead of the 2016 election. In the NPP primary conducted in October 2014, he was declared victor with 94.35% of the votes.^[19] Akufo-Addo also served as Chair of the Commonwealth Observer Mission for the South African elections in 2014.^{[20][21]}

He focused his campaign on the economy, promising to stabilize the country's foreign exchange rate and to reduce unemployment levels.^[22] On 9 December 2016, sitting president Mahama conceded defeat to Akufo-Addo.^[23] Akufo-Addo won the election with 53.83% of the votes against Mahama's 44.4%.^[24]

President of Ghana

Akufo-Addo took office on 7 January 2017. His inauguration was held at Black Star Square in Accra. Twelve presidents from African and European countries attended the ceremony, including Edgar Lungu of Zambia, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt, Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria.^{[25][26][27]}

Akufo-Addo faced backlash, especially on social media, for plagiarizing parts of his inauguration speech, having lifted passages, word-for-word, from previous inaugural addresses given by American presidents John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush as well as prepared remarks given by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari at a 2015 United States Institute of Peace event.^{[28][29][30][31][32][33]} After the scandal came to light, his press office issued an apology, with his communication director describing the situation as a "complete oversight and never deliberate."^{[34][35][36]} However, after the mea culpa, it was found that Akufo-Addo had also plagiarized portions of his 2013 concession speech after the Supreme Court of Ghana upheld the 2012 electoral victory of President John Mahama. In that speech, lines were lifted verbatim from United States Vice President Al Gore's 2000 presidential concession speech given after the US Supreme Court verdict.^{[37][38][39]}

In September 2017, the president launched the Free High School Education (SHS) policy, which will make secondary high school free for students in Ghana. The president states it is a "necessary investment in the nation's future workforce" and will help parents who are unable to pay for their children's education due to financial hardships. The program met with positive reaction from the nation, parents and students were excited and fervent, however, private schools opposed to the program state it will decrease the number of students enrolling in their system.^{[40][41]}

Personal life

Akufo-Addo is from Akropong-Akuapem and Kyebi in the Eastern Region. He is married to Rebecca Akufo-Addo (née Griffiths-Randolph), the daughter of judge, Jacob Hackenburg Griffiths-Randolph, the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana during the Third Republic.^{[42][43]} They have four daughters. Edwina Nana Douka Akufo-Addo, Adriana Dukua Akufo-Addo, Yeboakua Akufo-Addo, Gyankroma Akufo-Addo.^{[44] [45][46]}

Awards

Akufo-Addo was given an award for Exemplary Leadership in June 2018 by the Whitaker Group.^{[47][48]}



Rebecca Akufo-Addo

In September 2018, the U.S. Africa Business Centre of the United States Chamber of Commerce presented Akufo-Addo with the 2018 Outstanding Leader's Award in recognition of regional, diplomatic, and economic leadership in Africa.^{[49][50][51]}

In October 2018 he received the 2018 Governance Leadership Award "in recognition of his commitment towards enhancing the living standards of the Ghanaians and governing the country in accordance with the rule of law".^[52]

See Also

- Cabinet of Akufo-Addo government

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- EIN News: Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (<http://www.einnews.com/ghana/newsfeed-nana-addo-dankwa-akufo-addo>)
- Ghpage: Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo family and biography (<http://www.ghpage.com/need-know-akufo-addocareer-family/>)

Parliament of Ghana		
New constituency	Member of Parliament for Abuakwa 1997–2005	Constituency abolished
	Member of Parliament for Akim Abuakwa South 2005–2009	Succeeded by Samuel Atta Akyea
Political offices		
Preceded by Obed Asamoah	Attorney General of Ghana 2001–2003	Succeeded by Papa Owusu-Ankomah
Preceded by Hackman Owusu-Agyeman	Minister of Foreign Affairs 2003–2007	Succeeded by Akwasi Osei-Adjei
Preceded by John Mahama	President of Ghana 2017–present	Incumbent
Party political offices		
Preceded by John Kufuor.	New Patriotic Party nominee for President of Ghana 2008, 2012, 2016	Most recent

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